

Civil Rights: Broadening Concerns

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The eighth state conference of the *Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee*(APCLC) was held at Kurnool on December 11, 12 and 13, 1993. The occasion marked the 20th anniversary of the formation of the organisation.

The conference bid farewell in gratitude to K G Kannabiran who ceased to be president of the organisation after a 15-year stint as its head. The period 1978 to 1993, during which Kannabiran was president, was a period of growth, repression, expansion and sacrifice for APCLC. The conference elected MT Khan — journalist and writer — in his stead as the new president.

To reflect the range of civil rights concerns to which APCLC has over the years extended its activity, the conference formally amended the organisation's manifesto. The amendments are to the effect that

- we consider it necessary to fight caste and patriarchy as sources of civil rights violation, in addition to the state machinery and private property;
- we consider it necessary to fight for democratic values in politics and society, such as for instance secularism and protection of minorities' rights;
- we will actively criticise the state's economic and other policies from the point of view of democratic rights, values and principles; in particular from the point of view of social, political and economic justice; accountability of the government to people's aspirations; concurrence of government policies with the constitutional *directive principles*, etc.

The conference also approved resolutions to the effect that, with the aim of democratising the organisation's structure and broadening its outlook, special effort will be made to induct cadre from a broad democratic stream irrespective of specific political ideology; and also to develop cadre and leadership from *scheduled castes*, tribes, backward castes, women, minorities and other underprivileged sections of society.

The conference also approved a resolution welcoming the resolution passed at the recent annual conference of the *Organisation for Protection of Democratic Rights (OPDR)* that the *OPDR* would strive for organisational unity of the civil-rights movement in Andhra Pradesh. The conference resolved to work more closely with *OPDR* and strive for unity.